CLASS TITLE: LANDSCAPE TECHNICIAN
FORMERLY: HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR/LANDSCAPE ASSISTANT

BASIC FUNCTION:

Under the direction of Director- Grounds & Transportation, operate a variety of heavy equipment involved in grounds maintenance activities; perform related maintenance, construction and repair duties as assigned; trim, clean and maintain planted and unplanted areas of the campus; maintain College athletic fields; train and provide work direction and guidance to assigned staff.

REPRESENTATIVE DUTIES:

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:
Operate a variety of heavy equipment involved in grounds maintenance activities such as trucks, street sweepers, heavy-duty hydraulic packing trash trucks, tractors, loaders, backhoe, mowers and a variety of turf and landscape equipment; perform various turf maintenance practices on lawns and athletic fields.

Fill, level, roll, smooth, and prepare ground for planting; haul materials and distribute where needed.

Operate street sweep and clean parking lots.

Perform minor preventive maintenance work and minor repairs on grounds equipment; check fluids, adjust, lubricate, perform safety inspections and clean assigned equipment; defer regular maintenance and repairs to the mechanics.

Train and provide work direction and guidance to assigned staff; provide training to others related to the operation, maintenance and repair of light and heavy equipment.

Design and coordinate annual athletic fields maintenance schedule.

Review sols tests for levels of nitrate, phosphorus, potassium, and other elements for proper treatment; identify plant disease, fungi and pest problems for proper treatment.

Calculate, calibrate and prepare equipment for proper application of seed, fertilizer or chemicals.

Maintain routine records related to assigned activities; spray landscaped areas with insecticides and herbicides as assigned; order proper chemicals and materials for treatment, weed control and other usage.

Plant, prune, cultivate, fertilize, nurture, transplant, weed and rake lawns, flowerbeds, trees, bushes and shrubbery as assigned.

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Sharpen, clean, adjust and service grounds keeping equipment, including repairing or replacing external component parts.

OTHER DUTIES:
Perform related duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE AND ABILITIES:

KNOWLEDGE OF:
Operation and maintenance of heavy equipment used in grounds maintenance such as trucks, street sweepers, heavy-duty hydraulic packing trash trucks roller, tractors, loaders, backhoe and mowers. Materials, large complex tools, and procedures used in grounds maintenance. District policies and procedures. Principles and practices of training and providing work direction and guidance to staff. General safety precautions related to the operation and routine maintenance of heavy grounds equipment. Methods, equipment and materials used in general grounds maintenance work. Proper lifting techniques. Oral and written communication skills. Legal and defensive driving practices. Basic record-keeping techniques.

ABILITY TO:
Operate a variety of heavy equipment involved in grounds maintenance activities. Perform related grounds maintenance, installation and renovation duties as assigned. Train and provide work direction and guidance to assigned staff. Maintain heavy grounds equipment in a safe and operative condition. Apply and properly utilize landscaping fertilizers and chemicals. Service assigned equipment. Observe legal and defensive driving practices. Communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Work cooperatively with others. Maintain routine records related to work performed. Observe health and safety regulations. Understand and follow oral and written instructions. Work independently. Manage, organize and supervise.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:
Any combination equivalent to: 1 to 2 years experience at a skilled level in the operation of large turf and landscape equipment.

LICENSES AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS:
Valid California Driver’s License. Physical examination.

WORKING CONDITIONS:

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ENVIRONMENT:
Outdoor work environment.
Seasonal heat and cold or adverse weather conditions.
Exposure to fumes, dust, odors, oil/grease, gases.
Driving a vehicle to conduct work.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:
Dexterity of hands and fingers to operate grounds maintenance equipment.
Sitting and riding equipment for extended periods of time.
Bending at the waist, kneeling or crouching.
Walking or standing for extended periods of time.
Lifting, carrying, pushing and pulling heavy objects weighing 50 lbs or more as assigned by position.
Heavy physical labor.
Seeing to operate ground equipment.
Climbing in and out of grounds equipment.

HAZARDS:
Exposure to chemicals used in pest control and weed abatement.
Working around and with machinery having moving parts.